

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture comprising:

between 10 and 85 weight percent of a wax; containing

between about 5 and 90 weight percent of a superabsorbent selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylate; and

between about 2 and 40 weight percent of ~~and~~ a channeling agent that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of petroleum based, animal, vegetable and synthetic waxes.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A product comprising a porous member containing a liquid water absorbing mixture of:

between 10 and 85 weight percent of a wax; containing

between about 5 and 90 weight percent of a superabsorbent selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylates;  
and

between about 2 and 40 weight percent of a channeling agent that  
conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not  
conduct water vapor.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of petroleum-based, animal, vegetable and synthetic waxes.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said porous member is a string.

Claim 14 (Original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said porous member is a form which has been fabricated from a sheet.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 2 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 15 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture ~~as set forth in claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 15% and 60%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 50% and 75%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 8% and 25%.~~  
comprising:

between 50 and 75 weight percent of a wax;

between about 15 and 60 weight percent of a superabsorbent; and

between about 8 and 25 weight percent of a channeling agent that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture ~~as set forth in claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 21% and 25%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 60% and 65%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between 12% and 14%. comprising:~~

between 60 and 65 weight percent of a wax;

between about 21 and 25 weight percent of a superabsorbent; and

between 12 and 14 weight percent of a channeling agent that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 8 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A product ~~as set forth in claim 7 wherein~~  
~~said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 15%~~  
~~and 60%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between~~  
~~50% and 75%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an~~  
~~amount of between about 8% and 25% comprising a porous member containing~~  
a liquid water absorbing mixture of:

between 50 and 75 weight percent of a wax;

between about 15 and 60 weight percent of a superabsorbent; and

between about 8 and 25 weight percent of a channeling agent that  
conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not  
conduct water vapor.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A product ~~as set forth in claim 7 wherein~~  
~~said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 21%~~  
~~and 25%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between~~  
~~60% and 65%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an~~  
~~amount of between about 12% and 14%.~~

comprising a porous member containing a liquid water absorbing  
mixture of:

between 60 and 65 weight percent of a wax;

between about 21 and 25 weight percent of a superabsorbent; and  
between about 12 and 14 weight percent of a channeling agent that  
conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not  
conduct water vapor.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Cancelled)

Claim 25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent is encapsulated in the wax.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein the superabsorbent is encapsulated in the wax.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 28, wherein exposing the ~~channeling~~ channeling agent to water increases the permeability of the wax.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 28, further including a plurality of channels defined by the wax.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of channels is formed by the channeling agent and is fluidly connected to the superabsorbent.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of channels permits liquid water to pass to the superabsorbent but prohibits the passage of water vapor to the superabsorbent.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of channels comprises a micro channel.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 28, wherein ~~the superabsorbent comprises one of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylate,~~ the channeling agent comprises microcrystalline cellulose[[,]] and the wax comprises a petroleum-based wax.